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BECAUSE OF EASTER VACATION, THERE WILL BE NO BULLETINS ON APRIL 19. NEXT ISSUE WILL BE APRIL 26.

Br'er Possum, Gentle Pet While Young, Bares His Teeth in a Sleepy-time Yawn

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 4)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER J. BAYLOR ROBERTS

UMI

1949 Red Cross conferences placed civilians within the rules of war and revised regulations for prisoners, sick, and wounded.

In 1920 Geneva gained outstanding recognition by being selected as home of the League of Nations. Four years later it gave its name to the Geneva Protocol on regulating international disputes. From 1932 to 1934 a world disarmament conference was held at League headquarters. The spacious Palace of the League of Nations, completed in 1936, now houses United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

Geneva is the seat of the International Labor Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, the World Health Organization, and the International Committee for European Migration, all UN affiliates.

Spearheaded Protestant Movement—The roots of the community go far into history. Julius Caesar built a town on a near-by hill. John Calvin, apostle of rigid morality, gathered Protestant reformers about him at Geneva from 1536 on, and made the city a prime example of a theocratic society. Here John Knox, the Scottish reformer, found refuge and Jean Jacques Rousseau, philosopher and author, was born.

Today 150,000 people live in Geneva. Speaking French, German, and Italian, they make up a cosmopolitan city where the mind sweeps vast vistas of thought and the eye commands majestic mountain and lake scenery.

The trees are neatly clipped. They line spacious promenades and add charm to luxurious hotels bordering the formal water front. Pleasure craft dally on the speckled waters of Lake Geneva (Lac Leman, illustration, back cover). From the grounds of the League of Nations building, where East-West diplomats will meet, visitors can see the Alps' loftiest summit, snow-clad Mt. Blanc, 15,781 feet high.

An Air of Happiness—In such a setting and blessed with a stimulating climate, modern Geneva possesses the air of a happy city. It has discarded sterner characteristics of the Calvinist traditions but has retained industrial vigor. The home of a precise people, it is the center of precision industries—the manufacture of watches, clocks, and scientific instruments.

Lake Geneva is the largest lake in Switzerland. It forms a crescent 45 miles long and nine miles at its widest. The conference city lies at its southwestern end where the lake is surrounded by a peninsula of Switzerland jutting into France. Two fifths of the lake and most of the southern shore belong to France.

The Rhône River is its chief feeder and only outlet. Filling a mountain abyss, lake waters are 1,230 feet above sea level at the surface and reach down a thousand feet—almost to sea level—at deep points.

References—Geneva may be located on the National Geographic Society's map of Western Europe. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, see "Switzerland Guards the Roof of Europe," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1950; "Swiss Cherish Their Ancient Liberties," April, 1941; "Lake Geneva: Cradle of Conferences," December, 1937 (out of print; refer to your library); and "August First in Gruyères," August, 1936. *(Issues of The Magazine not more than 12 months old may be obtained by schools and libraries at a specially discounted price of 50¢ a copy. Earlier issues are 65¢ a copy through 1946; $1.00, 1930-1945; $2.00, 1912-1929. Write for prices of issues prior to 1912.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, Nov. 30, 1953, "Swiss Capital Marks 600th Anniversary"; and "Swiss Shelter Children of Many Nations," Jan. 12, 1953.

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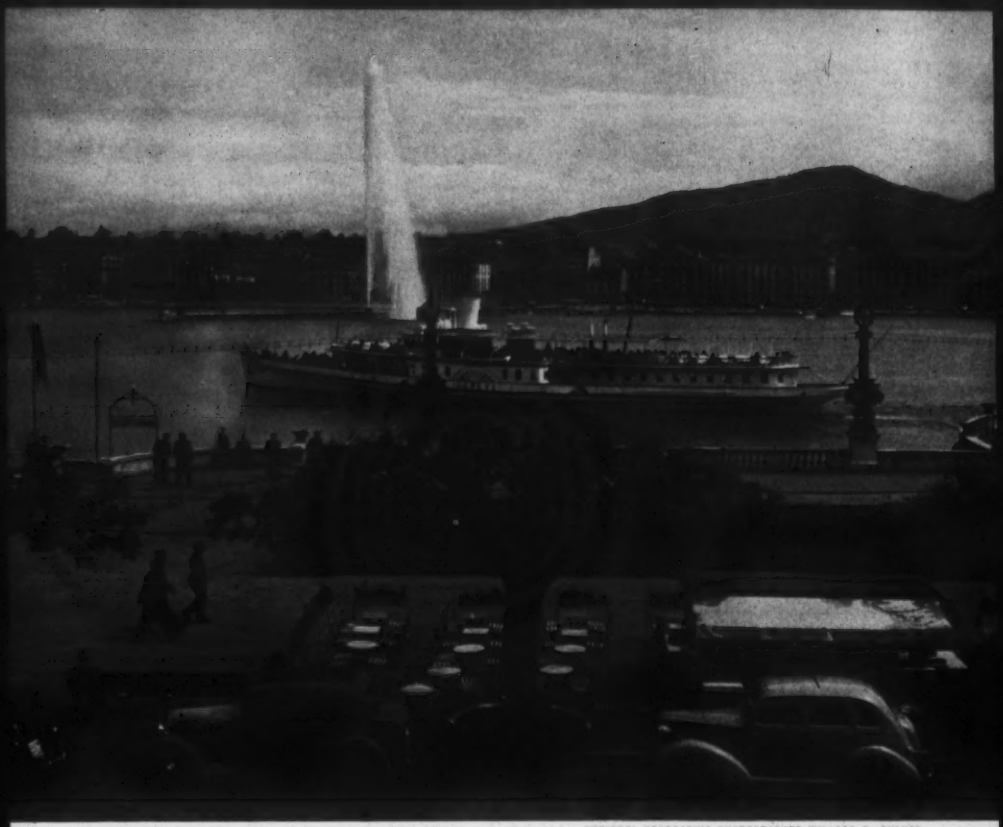

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER WILLARD R. CULVER

Geneva, East-West Conference City—A tourist steamer passes the Quai du Mont Blanc (foreground) starting on its sight-seeing round of 45-mile-long Lake Geneva. The city's hotels, shops, and promenades line the shore.

Bulletin No. 1, April 12, 1954

Geneva Resumes Role as Peace Forum

Geneva, meeting place for the coming Far Eastern conference, is unique among the world's cities as a site for international gatherings and as a permanent home for world organizations.

Beginning April 26, the United States, Great Britain, and France will meet the Soviet Union and communist China in the Swiss lakeside city in an effort to resolve differences over Korea and Indochina.

Attracts Great Events—Switzerland, traditionally neutral, is a republic noted for political and religious tolerance. Geneva, in its southwest corner, looks out on some of Switzerland's finest scenery. Alpine passes give the city a crossroads position easily reached from neighbor nations. These reasons have combined to bring great events to Geneva and to make it one of the world's intellectual centers.

In 1864 the International Red Cross was founded there. It influenced other organizations by making Geneva its permanent home. In 1946 and

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honor, save in his own country." The words are recorded with slight variation by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Today, Nazareth is the most completely Christian town in the Jewish Republic of Israel, which will celebrate its sixth birthday on May 6. About two thirds of the 21,000 residents are Christian Arabs. Most of the rest are Moslems. The town's Christians go to their many churches this Holy Week to honor the local Prophet whom Nazarenes of His time failed to recognize.

Donkey Hoofs and Truck Tires—The click-clack of donkey hoofs resounds from Nazareth's narrow cobblestone streets as it did when the young Jesus studied there. But modern growth has brought "din of market, whirl of wheels, and thrust of driving trade." Automobiles and trucks now whirr along the wider thoroughfares of the extensive modern sections. The main shopping street's busy blocks of souvenir stores and restaurants serve the steady stream of tourists.

A number of buildings of white limestone stand out. Hedges of cactus, vineyards, olive groves, and fruit orchards provide a contrasting green. Lying in the approximate latitude of Charleston, South Carolina, Nazareth at 1,300 feet altitude keeps more comfortable than Tiberias. Eastward in the Jordan Valley rift, Tiberias simmers beside the fresh-water Sea of Galilee at 696 feet below sea level.

Hebrew is the Israeli state language. In Nazareth Arabic is generally spoken and Christian Arab police patrol the streets. More than half the Christians belong to the Greek Orthodox Church. Their black-robed priests are a familiar sight on the city streets. Gold crosses hang from gold chains below their abundant beards, glinting in the sunlight in sharp contrast to their somber garb.

The remaining Christians are of the Western religions—Roman Catholic and Protestant. Nazareth holds 25 or more churches, monasteries, and convents. Their ringing bells counterpoint the over-all calm, peaceful aspect of the town.

Grotto of the Annunciation—A renowned sanctuary is the Church of the Annunciation, with its steps in solid rock leading to the 1,500-year-old mosaics in the Chapel of the Angel, and to the Grotto where the Archangel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary. Such high points of Scripture abound in town and countryside.

Galilee is good farm country. Olive groves green the hills. Skilled men cut and dress stone from the quarries outside Nazareth. Other industries include milling grain, making cement pipe and blocks, and preparing souvenirs. Every visitor wants to carry away a small bag containing hallowed soil, and a tiny vial of water from the River Jordan. Among Nazareth's artisans, carpentry is still an important trade.

The physical world of Jesus was as small as His spiritual world today is large. Galilee lies 100 miles north of Jerusalem by road; Bethlehem, five miles south. Within so small a compass were His earthly travels confined.

References—Nazareth is shown on the Society's map of Southwest Asia.
For additional information on the region, see "Pilgrims Follow the Christmas Star," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1952; "Home to the Holy Land," December, 1950; and "An Archeologist Looks at Palestine," December, 1947.

UMI

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

Nazareth Remembers—Christian convents and monasteries stand out among these green hills so well known to Jesus 19 centuries ago. The more crowded part of the town where He lived 30 of His 33 years lies to the right.

Bulletin No. 2, April 12, 1954

Nazareth Honors Its Prophet

The first Easter, more than nineteen centuries ago, marked the end of the earthly mission of Jesus. The places He knew as teacher and healer have remained the shrines of Christendom throughout the centuries. Some of them—quite apart from their holy associations—continue to play important roles in the world today.

Jerusalem, for instance, is capital of the modern Republic of Israel. And only last year Nazareth was officially designated to become administrative seat of the northern rural district of the country.

Beside Still Waters—Easter pilgrims to the Holy Land more and more seek out Nazareth, where Jesus spent nearly 30 of His 33 years. The Man of Galilee grew up there, among the green hills and beside the still waters, and followed Joseph in learning the carpenter's trade.

Nazareth then was just another Jewish town. The Old Testament contains no mention of it. Galileans, hearing of Christ's early ministrations, wondered, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Returning to His home town to preach, Jesus was taunted and driven out. From that experience came His observation, "A prophet is not without

The lower reaches of the Rio Grande are dotted with sites of historic battles, bandit skirmishes, and border irregularities. The upper reaches are rich in the history of exploration. Zebulon Pike crossed the river in Colorado, and not far away Kit Carson battled the Utes.

Coronado first reached the Rio Grande in 1540 on his expedition in search of the lost cities of Cibola. He found there the highly developed civilization of the Pueblo Indians, who had been in the river valley before Europeans dreamed of a new world.

References—The Rio Grande is shown on the Society's map of the United States. See also, "Water for the World's Growing Needs," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1952; "America's 'Meat on the Hoof'," January, 1952; "Adobe New Mexico," December, 1949; "High Country of Colorado," July, 1946; "The Yield of Texas," February, 1945; "Down the Rio Grande," October, 1939; "The Texas Delta of an American Nile," January, 1939; "New Mexico Melodrama," May, 1938; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 4, 1954, "Texas Building Resorts on Padre Island."

Rio Grande's Loss Is Desert's Gain—Irrigation makes parched areas bloom north of El Paso as along much of the border stream's course. From the river (right, out of picture) tree-lined canals feed life-giving water to the fields. What this productive valley would be without water is indicated by the unirrigated desert beyond.

ERNEST J. COTTRELL

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Bulletin No. 3, April 12, 1954

Lower Rio Grande: "World's Dustiest River"

To the Missouri and many other American rivers, spring thaws and rains bring a cargo of rich, brown mud. To the lower Rio Grande, this spring as last, a critical water shortage brings an apt description from Texas cowboys: "the world's dustiest river."

The flow of the Rio Grande was formidable when it was first seen by Europeans. When Alonso Alvarez de Pineda sailed into its mouth in 1519, he encountered a volume of water in keeping with the stream's 1,885-mile length.

Will Never Be the Same—But today the river is getting smaller and dustier. Warnings by United States hydraulic engineers that the border stream between Texas and Mexico probably never will be as big as it once was are borne out by 1954 spring reports.

A thirty-year average for March in the region of the new Falcon Dam shows a flow of 2,260 cusecs (cubic feet per second). In March, 1953, that figure dropped to 1,100, and a year later it dwindled to a startling low of 500 cusecs. Increasing irrigation for a rich agricultural area has robbed the lower river of water until it sometimes is little more than a trickle.

The huge Falcon Dam in March held only 375,000 acre-feet of water, according to reports of the International Boundary and Water Commission. Last November, a month after dedication, its reservoir attained a maximum of 1,000,000 acre-feet—about one fourth its capacity. Withdrawals currently average about 9,600 acre-feet daily. (An acre-foot, modern measure for large quantities of liquid, is the amount it takes to cover one acre of ground to a depth of one foot. It equals approximately 326,000 gallons.)

Planting on the Texas side of the river has been limited to 455,000 acres of farmland this year, while planting on the Mexican side is expected to total 500,000 acres.

Rises High in Colorado—The Rio Grande rises in a group of springs 12,594 feet up in the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado. Snow-fed streams pour into it as it drops some 5,000 feet through forests of spruce, fir, and aspen before it is first tapped for irrigation in the San Luis valley. It is the third-longest river in the United States, exceeded only by the Missouri and the Mississippi.

The Rio Grande has been used for irrigation for centuries, but in de Pineda's time it watered only the scattered fields of New Mexico's Pueblo Indians. At present it irrigates some 2,000,000 acres in Mexico and the United States.

The river waters a great variety of crops—corn and cotton, potatoes and broccoli, citrus groves and alfalfa. It also serves thousands of head of livestock as it flows near vast Texas cattle ranges.

Between Colorado's San Luis valley and the Gulf of Mexico, dams and reservoirs draw off water for the dry fields of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. Largest Rio Grande reservoir prior to the building of Falcon Dam was Elephant Butte in New Mexico. In service since 1916, it can impound slightly more than half as much water as Falcon.

is given on the first Sunday following October 3, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, who was noted for his kindness to birds and animals. Parishioners, mostly children, bring to church every imaginable form of pet. Rabbits, ducks, chickens, guinea pigs, even white mice, have been blessed at Hereford. During the service several years ago a pair of homing pigeons escaped from a basket. They perched on the church roof until the service was over, then flew home.

At the Cathedral of St. James in Fresno, California, blessings have been given to baby alligators, bees, turtles, snails, hamsters, and frogs, in addition to the more usual pets. In the Mexican section of Los Angeles, Olvera Street cats, dogs, and rabbits are among the recipients of blessings.

In countries where Roman Catholicism predominates, the "Benediction of Beasts" is annually performed on January 17, St. Anthony's Day. Mexican villagers gaily paint their dogs, pigs, parrots, and burros, and adorn them with ribbons and flowers to honor the occasion.

For 143 years men of Jesenwang, Germany, have ridden their heavy farm horses straight to the altar of the village church for a special blessing. In 1811 a fatal epidemic killed many of the community's animals, and the parish priest was asked to invoke blessings. When the epidemic promptly subsided, villagers promised to bring their livestock to church to be blessed once each year.

Jesenwang's unique rites may soon cease, however. The little Bavarian town now boasts 36 tractors, and horses are in decline.

Some of the oldest churches in England still have pews equipped with iron hooks and rings. Here church-goers in medieval times fastened their bloodhounds, mastiffs, and other hunting dogs.

Pacific Island Pet—A Chamorro boy on Guam eyes his rooster with pride and affection.

MARGARET M. HIGGINS

A few English churches had a small pew in the chancel arch, known as the "hall dog pew." This space was reserved for dogs.

In Siena, Italy, horses are taken to church and blessed before starting the race famous as the *Corsa del Palio* (race for the Palio), the world's oldest horse race. An annual affair since 1632, the Palio is a three-lap round of the Piazza del Campo, Siena's cobble-paved town square. Contestants represent the city's wards and the prize is the silken banner called the Palio.

References—See also "Westminster, World Series of Dogdom," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1954; "Br'er Possum, Hermit of the Lowlands," March, 1953; "The Ape with Friends in Washington," July, 1953; "Dog Mart Day in Fredericksburg," June, 1951; "England's Wild Moorland Ponies," January, 1946; and "The Panther of the Hearth," November, 1938; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 16, 1953, "Shetland Emigrants Win American Hearts."

DON RICE, N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE

"What Happened Next?"—The St. Bernard's young charge appears spellbound. Like Nana, dog-nurse of *Peter Pan*, this big pet takes good care of children. Its mild, pleasant disposition makes the St. Bernard an excellent baby-sitter and pal.

Bulletin No. 4, April 12, 1954

Blessing of Pets Is Widespread Custom

The next time Fido goes over the hill, or your parakeet flees its cage, you might search for the missing pet in church.

Dogs and birds, as well as horses, cats, pigs, and other lively pets are church-goers on occasion in many countries. The "Blessing of the Animals," an ancient religious custom, is annually observed in parts of Switzerland, Austria, England, Germany, Italy, Spain, Mexico, and even the United States.

Did You Ever Pet a Horned Toad?—The variety of pets that have been cherished by children—and adults—ranges from the homely "horned toad" (a tiny species of lizard) to the ponderous St. Bernard dog, and from the wriggling polliwog to the soft-furred opossum (illustration, cover).

Next week the little hamlet of Turtman in the Valaisan Alps of Switzerland will be the scene of festivities honoring assorted pets. The ceremony is held on April 23, the day of St. Anthony, patron saint of domestic animals in the region.

At Holy Trinity Church in Hereford, England, the animal blessing

Londonderry is one of the few walled cities in the British Isles. Its walls, completed in 1619, are unusual in being continuous. Pierced by seven gates, they are a mile in circumference and wide enough for a coach and four—varying from 14 to 37 feet. The city has long since spread beyond their confines and they remain like a necklace circling the hill that centers the original town.

From the Diamond, a square in this ancient enclosure, streets radiate. Near the summit of the hill rises the Protestant cathedral dating from 1633. Three of the bells in its tower were presented by Charles I. Oak leaves used in the cathedral decoration emphasize the derivation of Derry's name. An organ case is said to have been made of mahogany from a ship of the Spanish Armada. The fleet battled storms in the area on its roundabout way back to Spain from defeat in the English Channel.

It is *The Londonderry Air*, however, that has made the city's name most widely known. First printed just about a century ago, it was called *Irish Tune from County Derry*. Several sets of lyrics have been written for it, the most popular of which is probably *Danny Boy*. At least one noted composer has called it the most beautiful melody ever written.

References—Londonderry appears on the Society's map of the British Isles.

See also, in *The National Geographic Magazine*, May, 1951, "I Walked Some Irish Miles"; "Yanks in Northern Ireland," August, 1943; "The British Commonwealth of Nations," April, 1943; "Old Ireland, Mother of New Eire," May, 1940; "The Mist and Sunshine of Ulster," November, 1935; "Ireland: the Rock Whence I was Hewn," March, 1927; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 9, 1953, "Ireland Revives Ancient Festival."

Londonderry Spills over the Walls That Held the Early Town—From cathedral-crowned hilltop (background), St. Columba's ancient city has spread beyond the River Foyle. Semicircle of stone buildings at approach to the bridge marks the Waterside district, a comparatively modern section of Northern Ireland's shirt-and-collar city.

CLIFTON ADAMS

Bulletin No. 5, April 12, 1954

Londonderry Seeks Industrial Revival

Mention of Londonderry is sure to stir in many minds the haunting melody of an old Irish folk song now widely known as *The Londonderry Air.* But the city of Londonderry, or Derry, would like to hear another tune—the hum of a few substantial new industries.

Second-largest city of Northern Ireland—outranked only by Belfast, the capital—Londonderry has about 50,000 inhabitants. It has long been an important port and a manufacturing center. Collars and shirts are its specialties. Before World War II its factories turned out as many as 20,000,000 collars a year. Finishing, hemstitching, and other handwork on these garments provided a thriving cottage industry for the region round about.

Although Londonderry still is probably the United Kingdom's greatest collar-making center, numerous other products appear on its export lists. Sawmills turn out lumber, foundries cast brass and iron goods, and knitting mills make stockings and underwear by the great gross.

Wartime Naval Base—But despite turning wheels, Londonderry has a surplus of labor left from World War II years when its sheltered roadstead served as a busy Allied naval base.

Londonderry is the principal borough of the county that bears the same name. It stands on the River Foyle four miles upstream from an almost landlocked estuary, Lough Foyle. As many as 160 British, Canadian, and United States vessels at a time were based at its port during the war, and 60 German submarines surrendered there.

Linked with England and Scotland by regular steamer service and by rail with Belfast, 95 miles to the southeast, Londonderry is a natural distributing center for northwestern Ireland. Southward lie rich agricultural lands whence barges move downriver from Strabane on the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Beyond the city to the west rise the purple mountains of Donegal, the Irish Republic's northernmost projection.

Londonderry grew up in the sixth century around a monastery which St. Columba built in an oak grove. Its original name, Derry, is derived from the Gaelic word *doire,* meaning "place of oaks."

After nearly a thousand years the name was expanded to Londonderry when the Irish Society of London obtained the city by grant. In 1613 it was incorporated by the new name, but the old one still clings.

Victim of Vikings—From the ninth to the eleventh century Vikings burned St. Columba's town in repeated raids. It saw heavy fighting during the reign of Elizabeth I, and again when Cromwell ruled. In 1689, during an eight-month siege by the forces of James II, Londonderry earned its ringing motto, "No Surrender."

Led by a fighting clergyman, doughty citizens repulsed every attempt to capture this key to James's lost English throne. Relief ships finally broke through to Derry's aid and James marched away to final defeat at the Battle of the Boyne.

B. FRANSIOLI FROM BLACK STAR

The Castle of Chillon Commands a Narrow Pass on Lake Geneva's Swiss Shore

Today streamlined trains on the main rail line between Paris and Italy flash along the route guarded for centuries by the castle on its rocky islet. The Rhône enters the lake through the Alpine gap. Off picture to the left is Montreux, one of the conference towns that have made Lake Geneva country known as the "peace hub of the world" (Bulletin No. 1). In the castle dungeon Byron's "Prisoner of Chillon" was chained in durance vile.